

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 E. Main

Cañon City, CO 81212

OFFICE:

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-046 DN

CASEFILE:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range - Grazing Permit Transfer for Rye Slough North #05155 and Upper Long Gulch #05156 Allotments.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Rye Slough North Allotment: T15S, R75W, S. 15 Park County, 480 Public Acres

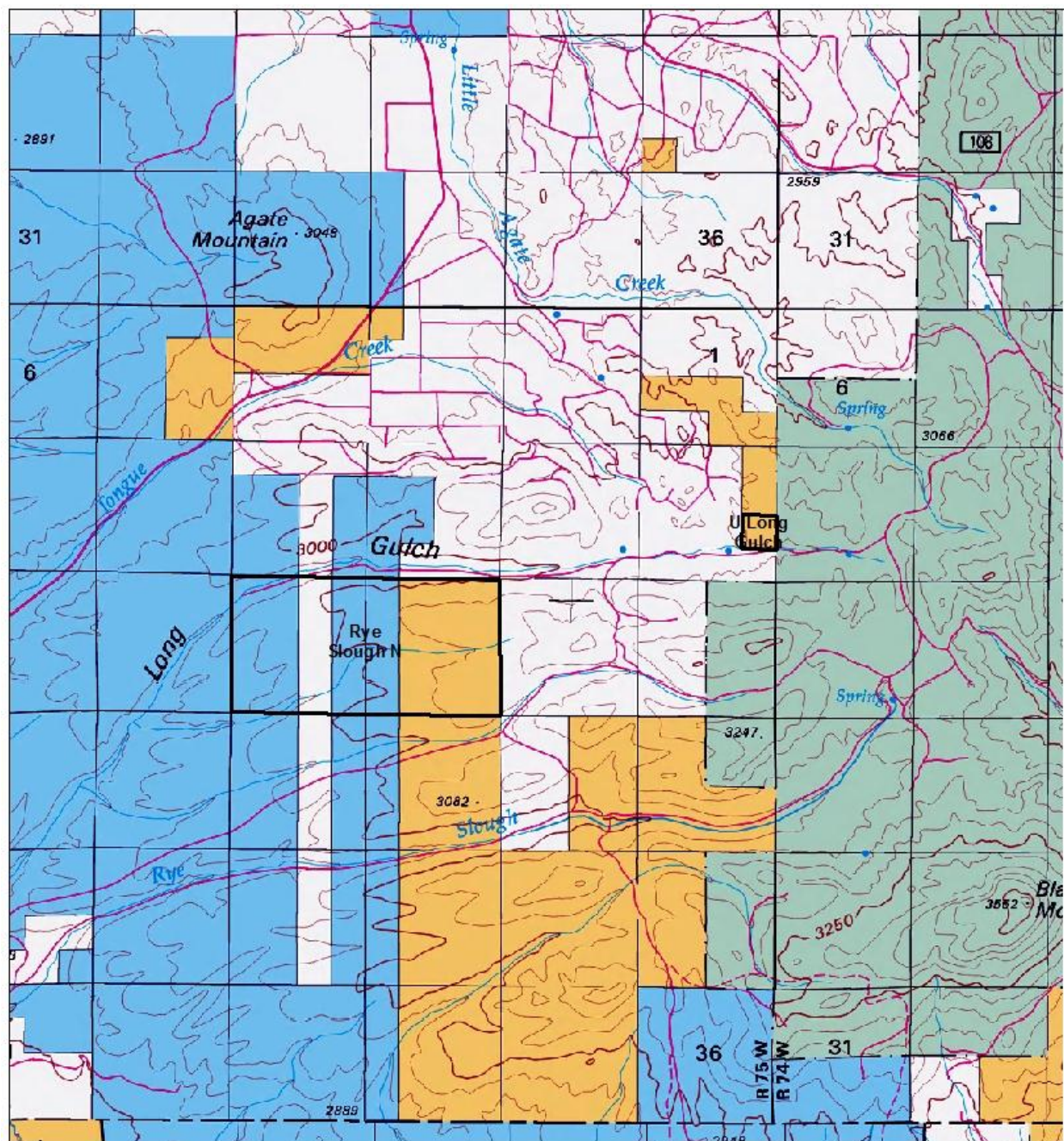
Upper Long Gulch: T15S, R75W, S. 12. Park County, 40 Public Acres

APPLICANT: Elk Ranch

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to transfer the authorization (permit) to graze livestock on public lands included in the Rye Slough North and Upper Long Gulch Allotments. The permit would be issued for ten years as previously scheduled. Grazing use on the allotments will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates and times; authorized levels of use; or terms and conditions.

As per CFR 4130.3-3 the authorized officer may modify the grazing schedule, terms and conditions of the permits at any time during the term when the active use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan or other activity plan, or management objectives.



Grazing Permit Transfer for Rye Slough North and Upper Long Gulch Allotments

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T15S, R75W, S. 12 & 15 6th PM

Legend

- Allotments
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- US Forest Service



NOTE TO MAP USERS

No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan	Date Approved 5/13/96
Other Document	Date Approved
Other Document	Date Approved

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions: 6-2, 6-4, 6-6, C-30, C-43, C-44

6-2: Season of use and stocking rates will continue based on the Grazing EIS and vegetation monitoring.

6-4: Grazing is authorized on 70 allotments.

6-6: Allotments are categorized as 22 Improve and 4 Maintain.

C-30: Base livestock grazing management on the 1981 Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement. Continue to use allotment management plans (AMPs) on an interim basis until replaced with IAPs.

C-43: Maximum allowable utilization on allotments with rotational grazing will be 80% annual production on grass species and 60% annual production on shrub species. These percentages may have to be reduced on allotments due to wildlife conflicts.

C-44: On single pasture allotments with season long spring/summer grazing, utilization will be held to the 40 to 60 percent range on forage species in lieu of a rest standard. This requirement will be on high elevation allotments where deferment or dormant season use is impractical because of deep snow and fencing the allotment into smaller units is uneconomical.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Rye Slough North DOI-BLM-CO-200-2009-0061 EA

Upper Long Gulch DOI-BLM-CO-2009-0045 EA

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Rye Slough North Public Land Health Assessment 2008

Upper Long Gulch Public Land Health Assessment 2009

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The RMP analyzed livestock grazing by allotment with the mandatory terms and conditions. The previous EAs analyzed grazing use and permit renewal on the same allotments. The Proposed Action is substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA documents(s). Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled.

There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates, times, authorized levels of use or terms and conditions.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The RMP and EA's considered a range of alternatives. The existing EAs for permit renewal continue to be appropriate for current conditions. The EAs included a proposed action alternative whereby grazing prescriptions could potentially change, a no action alternative where grazing prescriptions would remain the same as the previous permit, and a no grazing alternative that were analyzed in the document. No new environmental conditions or change in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The information and circumstances surrounding the grazing permit in this renewal are unchanged from the previous analysis. No new evidence or circumstances have arisen that would change the analysis.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. There are no negative direct or indirect impacts associated with the proposed action. The impacts analyzed in the permit renewal EAs remain unchanged.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Public scoping was conducted for the previous NEPA analysis. No issues were brought forward as a result of this scoping.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 5/5/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 4/28/2014
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 04/29/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 4/29/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 4/29/2014

John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 4/29/14
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 5/6/14
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 4/29/14
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 5/6/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/29/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 4/30/14
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV 05/28/14
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	n/a
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 5/6/14

Other Agency Represented: None.

REMARKS:

Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum Number CO-2002-029, RGFO cultural resources staff conducted a literature review of previous inventories conducted and sites recorded on the public land in the allotment area (See CR-RG-13-167 R). Based on the information collected during the literature review, it was determined that additional survey was needed in the area. Following the inventory (CR-RG-13-168 N), it was determined that no historic properties would be impacted by the proposed undertaking.

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

MITIGATION: None.

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: Jeff Williams

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF NEPA SUPERVISOR: Melissa K.S. Garcia

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: /s/ Melissa K.S. Garcia
for Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE: 6/10/14

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.